

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 are pending. By this amendment, claim 1 is amended, and claims 9 and 10 are added. No new matter has been added.

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,141,074 to Bos in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,313,898 to Numano; claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bos in view of Numano and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,092,664 to Miyatake; and claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bos in view of Numano in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,459 to Ichikawa. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Bos does not disclose a liquid crystal device including each alignment film orienting all molecules of the liquid crystal adjacent to the corresponding alignment film in the same direction as in the invention of amended independent claim 1 and new claim 10. Instead, Bos discloses that the alignment layers orient the liquid crystal molecules in different directions. See, e.g., Fig. 1. Numano does not provide the deficiencies of Bos. Bos is based on the premise that the liquid crystal molecules of the different domains d1 to d4 are oriented in different directions. See, e.g., col. 6, lines 43-62 and claim 1. If the alignment film of Bos was replaced with that of Numano, the result would be a non-functioning device. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine the references.

With respect to new claim 9, none of the references disclose a pretilt angle of 20 to 30° using liquid crystal with refractive anisotropy and thickness.

Miyatake and Ichikawa do not provide the deficiencies of Bos and Numano.

II. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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